

**Minutes of the Blackbird Leys Parish Council Meeting**  
**Held on Tuesday 26 February 2008 at the Jack Argent Rooms, Community Centre**  
**Blackbird Leys, commencing at 7pm**

**Present at meeting:**

**Parish Councillors:** R Morlin, G Webb, V Smith, S Fitzsimons, C Martin, D Johnston, P Stannard, M Booker and G Roper (Chair)

**Also present:** H Shayler (Clerk), 1 resident, K Griffin (Leys News), and for part of the meeting 2 PSCOs, 2 Street Wardens, K Johnson (Oxford City Council) and A Quammie (Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground)

**1. Apologies for absence** were received from. C Hatton, C Roberts, R Humberstone, S Marshall and R Marshall.

**4. Police/PSCOs/Street Wardens:**

PSCOs commented that half term had passed very quietly with the youth centre being well used. Comments were made about general anti-social behaviour including graffiti and the PSCOs asked that such behaviour should be reported to the non emergency telephone number and they would try to 'survey' relevant problem areas. As short discussion was held regarding areas of drug dealing on the estate causing concerns.

The Street Wardens commented that there had been reports of discarded needles found on the estate were being picked up by residents – it was stressed that this should not happen, please contact the Street Wardens and they will have them collected with correct safety procedures in place. It was commented that needles had been found in the area of Windale Avenue School and Kassam Stadium.

**3. Minutes of the meeting from 29 January 2008:** K Griffin commented that she had been present at the last meeting and not A Pavelin as stated and it was her that had given the report – the minutes were then signed as a true record of events.

**5. Public discussion**

**a)** K Johnson was thanked for attending the meeting and the following items were raised: Field Avenue pot holes, Blay Close and Sawpit Road Grass Verges in need of attention, Pegasus Road/Knights Road pathways in need of moss removal. Dogs being kept in flats – K Johnson stated any council tenant should have permission to keep pets, if there are concerns of animal health then they should be reported to ensure correct permits are in place. P Stannard raised the issue of taxed but un-road worthy vehicles being parked in parking bays on the estate – are they legally parked? K Johnson offered to look in to tenancy agreements to see if they can be removed or if the fact they have tax, and therefore assumed to have insurance, they have to be left alone even though they may not be currently able to go on the roads.

**b)** Community Web Site – K Griffin needed some questions answered about the general layout of the 'new' website. The council asked for them to be put in writing and then answers given at the next meeting to try and reduce the amount of time required and letting councillors look at the site to gain an opinion / make comments.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes:**

**a)** The clerk was asked to raise the following questions raised to the planning officer ahead of his visit to the Parish Council meeting: (i) What can actually be used as an objection, (ii) How does retrospective planning work and (iii) Size increase to property before planning is required.

**b)** A letter had been received from S Hattaon at Oxford City Council City Works regarding the removal of the bollards in front of 25-31 Blackbird Leys Road – it was stating that the Parish Council had agreed for the bollards to be put in place and therefore it would be at the Parish Council's cost for them to be removed, this cost would be £90.00 + VAT for the pair to be removed and disposed of. It was stated that it was not the Parish Council who had the bollards initially erected, it was the tenants forum that no longer

exists. After a discussion regarding this issue P Stannard proposed that as the Parish Council had assured the residents it would strive to get the bollards removed then the cost should be picked up to get the project moving forward, 2<sup>nd</sup> by R Morlin this was carried with a majority vote of 5 fore and 4 against. V Smith offered to formally notify S Hatton and then upon receipt of an invoice the fee would be paid.

## **6. Planning applications and decisions:**

Application 07/02156/FUL – 35 Moorbank. It was noted that the owner of this property had appealed against the objection of works requested. It was understood that R Humberstone was due to be in attendance at the forthcoming meeting to re-instate original objections raised.

No objections was raised to the following application:

- a) Application No.: 08/00233/CT3  
Proposal: Erection of 1.8m fence fronting Cuddesdon Way. AT: 31-58 Watlington Rd
- b) Application No.:08/00224/ADV  
Proposal: Retention of freestanding internally illuminated panel sign  
AT: Oxrad House, 10 Watlington Road FOR: Deals 4 Wheels
- c) Application No.: 08/0029/FUL  
Proposal: Single storey extension to provide accommodation and double garage  
AT: 66 Knights Road – although no objection was raised it was asked that the comment be made requesting that there can be no split of property into separate dwellings in the future.

Applications 08/0118/FUL and 08/00208/ADV (Proposal: Freestanding double sided internally illuminated display unit AT 206 Garsington Road) circulated before the meeting had received no objections – however, it was stated that application 08/0118/FUL for Demolition of existing garages in block. Erection of 2x3 bed houses with integral garages AT the rear of 73 Kestrel Cres. had been withdrawn.

G Webb raised a concern over the time allowed for responding to some of the planning applications – a discussion was held on the options available in order to ensure that time and discussion is put into all applications received by the Parish Council. It was proposed by G Roper, that a Planning Committee should be re-instated: V Smith offered to liase with the City Council to ensure that the current applications which are being put through are available by email to G Webb who would then contact the sub planning committee (consisting of G Webb, G Roper, V Smith, M Booker and C Martin – S Fitzsimons offered to be an additional member if required). Authority was given for a direct response by the committee to the City Council if the comments date was before the next full meeting, during any future Parish Council meeting a report would be provided on any responses given and those being recommended for any applications due, this was 2<sup>nd</sup> by P Stannard and carried with an unanimous vote.

## **7. Financial matters**

The following expenses were proposed by S Fitzsimons, seconded by P Stannard, and carried an unanimous vote: Clerk's salary - £258.90; telephone answering service– £35.25; Vodafone (direct debit) £36.50; hire of Jack Argent Room for meeting – £10.00; Postage - £33.48; Leys News, Website, - £141.99 Qualiday, Grant Release, - £350.00; Barn Youth Group, Grant Release, - £294.00; BDO Audit - £434.75 A list of grant payments made during the past three years was provided for councillors to reviewed.

Grant Applications:

- a) A Quammie was introduced from Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground to support the grant application that had been submitted – P Stannard declared an interest to this application as he was chair to the group.

A brief report was given with questions being taken – A Quammie was thanked for attending the meeting and was informed that a decision would be sent soon after the meeting.

G Webb raised a concern over the lack of financial information available regarding the current position of the group following the comments made that they were financially struggling due to funds previously provided being stopped/reduced. V Smith proposed that £500.00 be awarded now subject to the receiving

receipts and that a further £500.00 would be considered after receiving financial statements from the group, this was second by G Webb and carried with an unanimous vote.

b) Leys Community Development Initiative – Due to the amount of £3000.00 being requested the clerk was asked to invite a member from the organisation to the next Parish Council meeting to take questions on the application.

c) The clerk reported that correspondence had been received from several organisations who had previously been awarded grants but had not sent in receipts for the monies received. Some of the projects for which monies had been released had not yet taken place but an update had been received from Dovecote Play scheme and the Leys Unity with receipts being received from other organisations where the final purchases had now taken place. The clerk was asked to keep a note of which papers need to be chased up in the next few months and it was agreed by the council that in future monies would not be released until production of receipts or within a closer time to projects taking place with more information available as to what exactly the money is to be used for.

**8. Correspondence:** In addition to items on agenda the clerk informed the Parish Council that a copy of the Oxfordshire Public Transport Guide, Winter Edition, was received along with ORCC information on Primary School provision update.

**9. Any other business**

a) C Martin raised the issue of a Garden of Remembrance which had been discussed some time ago – at that time no space could be located, C Martin suggested that the area by the allotments in Kestrel Cres. which had been used for the tree project could possibly now be considered. V Smith commented that F LaPage would be the person to contact to re-raise the issue. G Webb commented that if such a project should go ahead then the safety of persons visiting should be considered with avoidance of another ‘gathering’ place being made

b) M Booker commented that Moorbank Gardens had been cleared up.

c) S Fitzsimons asked who could attend the ‘Walk Abouts’ held between City Council and the Parish Council - G Roper informed the Council that there was normally a meeting every 4 – 6 weeks and although there is obviously no requirement for all Parish Councillors to attend, anyone was welcome. After a short discussion, it was suggested that maybe each meeting could be held with different members to ensure that all areas of the estate were being taken into consideration. G Roper offered to try and organise this letting members know when the next meeting dates were due to be.

d) It was mentioned that the landscaped along the footpath outside the Spar shop in Dunnocks Way has been degraded due to traffic passing over it – who’s responsibility was it Council or Shop? It was believed to be the responsibility of the shop.

e) It was commented that the ‘dogleg’ road lay out in Nightingale Ave (next to the playground area) had had new dotted lines put on it, but they had been put on the wrong roadway causing confusion in the area – V Smith offered to look into this with County Highways.

f) The clerk raised the issue of the Annual Parish meeting which is normally held at the same time of the April Parish Council meeting – it was agreed that this would be the same this year. The Parish Council meeting would be only to go through financial / planning and urgent matters to ensure the evening did not run too late.

h) The clerk informed the Parish Council that this would be her last ‘official’ meeting before taking Maternity, Sue Lee would be in attendance for the next meeting to take minutes etc. On behalf of the Parish Council G Roper gave best wishes for the forthcoming arrival and hoped all went well.

**10. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup> 2008

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.37pm

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